

History of Horse Racing in Mount Pearl

There has been talk about tennis, softball and baseball as the starting sports in Mount Pearl, yet there were other sports before the above mentioned; horse racing was one of them. “In the 1830’s and 1840’s Mount Pearl became the rendez-vous of men of means and lovers of horse racing. In 1840 there was erected on ‘the Mount’ a large open air gallery with benches for the spectators to view lower lands....Pacers were driven by their owners or jockeys” (Graham, 39).

Advertisements in the Evening Telegram informed the population of Newfoundland about the up and coming sport of Mount Pearl; “HORSE RACES To be held at Mount Pearl Driving Park, Tuesday, Sept.3rd, 1889” (Evening Telegram,1889). There were bareback races, trotting races, pony races and free-for-all races, all of which were the favourites of gambling men and women. Spectatorship was immense. Indeed, the horse races “held at Mount Pearl on April 12-13, 1845 under the patronage of Governor Harvey were attended by Prince Henry of the Netherlands, then a visitor of the City. The band of Royal Newfoundland Companies was in attendance” (Graham, 39).

However, with the technological advancement well on its way, horse racing lost its spectatorship’s interest; “apart from the Avalon Raceway at the Goulds and the entertainment provided by the harness racing there with its stable of spirited steeds, there are few horses around” (Graham, 39).

Regardless, it’s wonderful to hear of such a popular and well respected sport that had its start in the heart of what many of us call home now.

Source:

Graham, Frank. *Ready...Set...Go!; A St. John’s Sports Pictorial*. Creative Publishers, St. John’s Nfld, 1988. Print.

Advertisements that were found in the Evening Telegram about Horse Racing in Mount Pearl:

THE COMING HORSE RACES.

THE proceedings at the preliminary meeting held last night to initiate a day's sport of horse-racing were very successful, and the sum of fifty dollars or so was subscribed immediately by the twenty gentlemen present, comprising Messrs. J. P. Shea, who is the young spirit in the matter, and who explained the object in view, Dr. McNearn, F. Feehan, Lester, Nagle, Bowers, Roper, Lockett, M. Feehan, Wm. Cook, T. Curran, and others. A general committee of seventeen members was appointed, and a managing committee of four. It is anticipated that the sport will take place on the 3rd of September, which will be next Tuesday week, and the course will be chosen either at Kilbride or Mount Pearl. It was moved, seconded and carried unanimously that after the races a public meeting be convened and a report read giving an account of the collections and disbursements of the fund, and that said report be published in the press.

Evening Telegram St. John's 1889/08/22 The Coming of Horse Races

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

SPECIAL!


STEELE'S ESTABLISHMENT, AT 101 WATER STREET, WILL remain closed after to-night (Saturday) in order to make all necessary preparations for the

OPENING OF NEW PREMISES,

(129 Water Street), next Saturday. Full particulars next week.

100 PACKING CASES, (all sizes), at 40c. each, if taken away before Saturday next. aug31,11

Removal Notice!

 WE beg to announce that we have removed our Stock of Plumbing and Gas-Fitting Material to No. 214 Water Street, next door to Messrs. Thos. McMurdo & Co.'s Drug Store, where all orders entrusted to us will receive prompt attention.

H. GEAR & Co.

aug28,11

Boom in Tea!

FOR THREE WEEKS WE WILL SELL OUR

New Season's Congou,

1889-90, at the following rates:—

5-lb. Caddies \$1.00.	10-lb. Caddies \$2.00.
<small>At Brookings's and McIvride's Hill and New Cash Grocery Store.</small>	
6-lb. Caddy Jubilee Tea \$1.25.	

JAMES MURRAY.

(Under the distinguished patronage of his Excellency the Governor.)

Newfoundland - Trotting - Association!

HORSE RACES,

To be held at **Mount Pearl** Driving Park, (TUESDAY,) Sept. 3rd, 1889.

PROGRAMME OF RACES:

1st—Bareback Race, go-as-you-please best two heats out of three. 1st prize—One fine carriage harness, valued at \$30.00; 2nd, cash \$5.00; 3rd, cash \$3.00. Entrance fee, \$1.00.

2nd—Free-for-all Race, with or without saddle, go-as-you-please, best two heats out of three. 1st prize—One fine bridle and saddle, valued at \$24.00; 2nd, cash \$3.00; 3rd, cash \$2.00. Entrance fee, fifty cents.

3rd—Trotting Race, (to saddle), best three heats out of five. 1st prize—Cash \$50.00; 2nd, \$15.00; 3rd, \$12.00. Entrance fee, \$2.00.

4th—Pony Race, (go-as-you-please), with or without saddle, best two heats out of three. 1st prize—One best cart harness valued at \$24.00; 2nd, cash \$3.00; 3rd, cash \$2.00. Entrance fee, 50 cents.

OTHER SPORTS.

Running Race (over 1/4-mile course), cash prize, \$2.00.
 Climbing Greased Pole, 1 pair pants and large Ham, value, \$5.00.
 Catching Greased Pig, cash value, \$5.00.
 Hurdle Race, \$2.00; Swinging, Dancing and other Amusements.

Professor Bennett's String Band in attendance. Races to commence at 10 o'clock, a.m., sharp. A entrance fee of 20c. will be charged for carriages entering the grounds; foot-passengers free.

JOHN F. SHEA, Secretary.

aug30,31p

Call and See Us!

WE are now selling a very nice ground Coffee—loose, in 1/2 and 1-lb. lots, or any quantity. Also, a very choice lot of selected Nova Scotia Butter.

F. PARNELL'S, .. 131 WATER STREET.

DANIELLE'S DANCING ACADEMY,

-:- Star of the Sea Hall. -:-

PROFESSOR DANIELLE has the above Hall handsomely fitted up for his classes and assemblies, commencing with a GRAND OPENING ASSEMBLY, on **FRIDAY NIGHT, September 6, 1889.** Class for Ladies and Gentlemen Tuesday and Friday nights, from 7 till 9; Assembly 9 till 12 o'clock. Class for Ladies and Children Wednesday, at 2.30, and Saturdays at 10 till 12 o'clock. The patronage of the fashionable and respectable public only is solicited. DANCING has become so universally popular that it has come to be considered an essential part of a general education. A good dancer cannot appear awkward upon the street or in society; it inspires confidence, reforms awkwardness, dispels diffidence and incivility manly and womanly deportment. Children's manners and carriage are formed between the ages of eight and sixteen, and that is the best period in their lives to learn to dance, though the age of twenty or thirty is no barrier to their learning. A TEACHER'S DUTY does not consist in merely showing a pupil the steps, but his eyes should follow the pupil from the first lesson to the last, and every position of body, feet, head and arms should be watched and corrected wherever needed. The poor dancers, ungraceful dancers, and coarse, boisterous dancers, seen at parties and balls, are the sole result of this lack of watchfulness on the part of the teacher, or to their having "picked up dancing." In no position of life does a lady or gentleman shine to such advantage as in the graceful movements of the dance as imparted by a competent teacher. **MY SYSTEM OF TEACHING** and illustrating the movement in the different dances is so plain that any one can learn all the dances of the day in one or two courses of lessons, under my experienced tuition.

Early in the fall a series of weekly assemblies will be held for Children, when true manly and womanly deportment will be inculcated. Send your children to the classes that they may learn to dance in time for these Juvenile Winter Assemblies. DANCING was almost a "lost art" in this city when I returned here last summer, after an absence of 14 years; and it will take me two years longer to remodel and straighten out this present style of Dancing, and all who would see what one man can do come to my Hall one month from my opening and see what I have done. I have in embryo, for production, with the aid of my pupils, during the fall and winter months—a series of Entertainments, introducing marvellous mechanical effects and transformation scenes that will bewilder all beholders with their kingly oriental grandeur. Terms for lessons—Gentlemen \$8.00; Ladies and Children \$5.00 per course of 12 lessons and assemblies; last year's pupils—\$6 & \$5. Admission to Assemblies, gentlemen 50c.; ladies 20c.; spectators 10c.; children 5c. Parents free to the afternoon classes. Private classes and private lessons on other days and nights of the week.

C. H. DANIELLE,

aug29,11 Residence: 112 Water Street.

THE HORSE RACES.

A Pleasant Day at Mount Pearl.

IMMENSE NUMBER OF SPECTATORS.

Sir W. V. Whiteway and Other Prominent
Citizens Present.

THE horse-races, yesterday, rather disappointed the expectations of spectators, as respects the enjoyment, excitement and picturesque sight incident to the racing proper, though a good deal has to be overlooked in view of the reluctance of many owners of good steeds to enter. The limited number of competitors accounted for this; for nothing enhances sport like a good field of fleet coursers ridden by jockeys in their red, green, yellow and vari-colored attire. The horses and ponies in the galloping races flashed around the course in a twinkling, the riders urging them on with whip and spur to their utmost speed. One pitied the poor beasts during the terribly severe ordeal, but it was soon over, and then the sagacious creatures, with dilated eyes and panting nostrils, stood quite docile at the winning post, receiving the plaudits of their friends in good temper, and behaving as if something unusual, in which they bore a leading part, was going on. It is to be observed that the side sports were poorly managed; and, in place of being displayed between the racing of the horses, thus imparting variety to the show, were kept back till the afternoon, and then went off at half-cock. Two articles only—a coat and a ham—were thought to be sufficiently valuable to tempt the tired tramp to shin up a greased pole some thirty feet high; they were left to air their banners in neglect till six o'clock, when a venturesome youngster succeeded in mounting quarter way up, only to find the grease too much for him. In the race for the possession of the pig the youths and men who intended to struggle with the slippery customer were expected to pay an entrance fee of ten cents, as if the poor class of people who claimed the privilege of being able to grasp and hold its greased tail, could pay even that small amount. The pig was not released till the last moment, after half the people had left the course, and the action of the committee came in for a good share of censure as being illiberal and paltry. Despite these drawbacks a day of pleasant enjoyment was had; the beautifully bright and sunny character of the day, the fair vision of a diversified landscape bathed in sunshine, the grateful shade of the stately trees, which fringed the grounds, and the exquisitely sweet harmonies of Bennett's band, as well as the horse and foot racing, contributing to that end. Amongst the prominent people present were Sir William and Lady Whiteway, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Bowring, Mr. and Mrs. Studdy, Mr. R. L. Mare, and many others. His Excellency the Governor drove in to Mr. Studdy's and also graced the scene.